

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a connector on the end of a flexible conduit
5 comprising the distinct and sequential steps of:

a) providing a flexible breathing respiratory conduit adapted for use in a medical
apparatus, the conduit having with an outer wall formed from a thin plastic film,

b) injection moulding a soft rubber with a low melting point onto said conduit
adjacent to the end of said conduit to form a cuff, ~~said rubber injected in such a manner that~~ said
10 rubber blending blends with said conduit without adversely affecting the integrity of said conduit,
and

c) subsequently injection moulding a hot molten plastic over said cuff to form said
connector, said molten plastic blending with said cuff to seal said conduit relative to said
connector,

15 the said hot molten plastic injected at a higher temperature than the melting point of said
film and said soft rubber, said cuff shielding said conduit from said hot molten plastic to prevent
damage to said conduit.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a connector on the end of a flexible conduit according to claim 6 wherein said cuff is deformable once formed and in use relieves stress between the connector and the conduit by cushioning the conduit.

5 13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a connector on the end of a conduit according to claim 6 wherein said connector is configured so that in use post-forming said connector can couple pneumatically with a compatible connector part.

10 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a connector on the end of a conduit according to claim 6 wherein said hot molten plastic is injected onto said cuff at a temperature
15 greater than a melting point of said soft rubber, causing a portion of the cuff to melt.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a connector on the end of a conduit according to claim 6 wherein the connector is moulded over the cuff and toward the end of the conduit, a portion of said cuff extending out of an inner end of the connector away from the end
20 of the conduit.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a connector on the end of a conduit according to claim 18 wherein said cuff prevents contact between said hot molten plastic and said conduit behind said cuff.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a connector on the end of a ~~thin-walled~~ flexible conduit comprising the steps of:

a) providing a ~~thin-walled breathing respiratory~~ conduit adapted for use in a medical apparatus,

b) moulding a low melting point soft rubber onto said conduit adjacent to the end of said conduit to form a cuff, and

c) subsequently injection moulding a hot molten plastic over said cuff to form said connector, said plastic injected at a temperature greater than the melting point of the cuff, said cuff insulating the conduit and preventing contact between the conduit and the hot molten plastic.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a connector on the end of a flexible conduit according to claim 20 wherein said low melting point soft rubber that forms said cuff is injected onto said conduit at a lower temperature than said hot molten plastic that is injected onto said cuff to form said connector, said conduit blending with said cuff and said cuff blending with said connector to seal the conduit with respect to the connector.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a connector on the end of a flexible conduit according to claim 21 wherein said cuff is deformable once formed and in use relieves stress between the connector and the conduit by cushioning the conduit.